

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR SHUM CSCE YO
SUBJ: TITO, BAKARIC ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT TITO AND PRESIDENCY MEMBER VLADIMIR
BAKARIC HAVE REJECTED WESTERN "PRESSURE" FOR GREATER HUMAN
RIGHTS IN YUGOSLAVIA. BAKARIC SEES HUMAN RIGHTS "CAMPAIGN"
THREATENING DETENTE. HE LIGHTLY DISMISSES THE DENIAL OF
A PASSPORT TO MILOVAN DJILAS AS BEING IN DJILAS'S INTEREST
BECAUSE IT PREVENTS HIM FROM SPREADING PROPAGANDA ABROAD
AND THUS KEEPS HIM OUT OF YUGOSLAV JAIL. DJILAS HAS BEEN SUBJECT
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OF STRONG EDITORIAL ATTACK AND A RELATIVE OF HIS WAS ARRESTED.
END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING AT A THEATER FESTIVAL IN NOVI SAD ON
APR 16, TITO DEFENDED YUGOSLAVIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS
RECORD AND REJECTED ANY CHANGE IN OFFICIAL CONDUCT
UNDER FOREIGN PRESSURE. IN SPITE OF YUGOSLAVIA'S

UNUSUALLY FREE EMIGRATION POLICY, TITO SAID "THEY ATTACK US BECAUSE OF TWO OR THREE PASSPORTS WHICH WE DO NOT GIVE AND WILL NOT GIVE". HE SAID "SOME ABROAD" TRY TO GLORIFY SEVERAL DOZEN YUGOSLAVS AGAINST WHOM THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE STRONG ACTION BECAUSE THEY WERE IMPEDING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. TITO FINDS THE REASON FOR THESE ATTACKS IN THE DISLIKE OF OTHERS FOR THE YUGOSLAV EXAMPLE. "SUCH AN EXAMPLE IS DANGEROUS FOR MANY BOURGEOIS STATES, AND SOME OTHERS, TOO". HE REAFFIRMED YUGOSLAVIA'S DETERMINATION TO PURSUE ITS OWN COURSE AND CHANGE NOTHING UNDER PRESSURE.

3. BAKARIC FIELDLED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CSCE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN ZAGREB THE SAME DAY. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS HE SAID THAT THE PRESENT ISSUE WITH REGARD TO CSCE IS HOW TO PREVENT THE CONFERENCE FROM BECOMING A "BATTLEFIELD OF CONFRONTATIONS". WHEN ASKED ABOUT UNSPECIFIED STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER REGARDING CSCE, BAKARIC SAID THAT ISSUES LIKE THE QUESTION OF "DISSIDENTS" LEAD TO CONFRONTATION RATHER THAN DETENTE AND ARE USEFUL NEITHER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS NOR RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES.

4. BAKARIC SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO GRANT AN AMNESTY, BUT THAT THE ISSUE IS PURELY AN INTERNAL MATTER WHICH WILL BE DECIDED ON THE BASIS OF STUDIES NOW UNDERWAY.

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5. ONE JOURNALIST ASKED WHY THE POLICE DO NOT GIVE MILOVAN DJILAS A PASSPORT. BAKRIC SAID IT IS IN DJILAS'S INTEREST NOT TO HAVE A PASSPORT BECAUSE IN THE PAST HE HAS VIOLATED YUGOSLAV LAW WITH HIS PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS WHEN TRAVELING ABROAD. THEREFORE, BAKARIC SUGGESTED, NOT HAVING A PASSPORT KEEPS DJILAS FROM GOING TO JAIL.

6. AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN OTHER STEPS TO INTIMIDATE DJILAS, WHO HAS BEEN GIVING OUTSPOKEN INTERVIEWS TO WESTERN JOURNALISTS. A COUSIN OF DJILAS, VITOMIR DJILAS, WAS ARRESTED IN MONTENEGRO IN MARCH ON A CHARGE OF "HOSTILE PROPAGANDA" AND APRIL 11 COMMENTARY IN LARGEST-SELLING DAILY, VECERNJE NOVOSTI, MADE AN UNUSUALLY STRONG AND DIRECT ATTACK. IT CALLED MILOVAN DJILAS A "PROVOCATEUR" ACTING ON ORDERS FROM UNNAMED EMPLOYERS RATHER THAN A CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS "HIS APOLOGISTS FROM VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE AND PROPAGANDA SERVICES ABROAD" TRY TO PORTRAY HIM. YORK

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